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General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 4 December 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Israel, the occupying Power, has started yet another chapter in its bloody military campaign against the Palestinian people, which began over a year ago on 28 September 2000. Yesterday, 3 December 2001, Israeli helicopter gunships fired missiles at a heliport in a presidential compound in Gaza, destroying helicopters belonging to the Palestinian Authority and other facilities in the compound. In the early morning hours of that day, Israeli tanks and bulldozers also entered the vicinity of Gaza International Airport and destructed the main runway. Israeli occupying forces also used helicopter gunships and F-16 fighter planes to bombard several Palestinian security installations and ministry buildings throughout Gaza City and in the city of Jenin.

Today, Israeli occupying forces continued those attacks, targeting buildings of the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah, where they fired missiles at facilities less than 50 metres away from the headquarters of President Arafat while he was there. In addition to the attacks on Ramallah, Israeli helicopters and warplanes carried out attacks on Palestinian sites in Khan Yunis, Tulkarem, Qalqilya and Nablus. Israeli occupying forces also moved their tanks and armoured personnel carriers far into areas under full Palestinian control, reoccupying parts of those areas and imposing a virtual siege on several Palestinian cities. The attacks by the occupying Power have all targeted facilities located in residential Palestinian neighbourhoods, causing a high number of injuries, wreaking vast physical destruction, and intensifying fear and panic among the Palestinian people. Moreover, the Israeli assaults today killed four people, including a 15-year-old Palestinian boy and a Palestinian security officer, increasing the Palestinian death toll.

All of the above actions have been coupled with a wave of belligerent statements by Israeli officials, including statements by Mr. Ariel Sharon, declaring war and war-like activities against the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people. Israel attempts to present all of the atrocities and war crimes it is committing as part of a campaign against terrorism and, at the same time, while it commits those

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atrocities, it expects the Palestinian Authority to be able to fulfil its responsibilities in the security arena. This is absurd since Israeli military actions can only ensure the failure of any efforts to bring about a better security situation and can only serve to create more hatred and more violence and escalate tensions. Mr. Sharon has always been publicly against achieving a peaceful settlement and against implementing the recommendations of the Mitchell Committee and any serious attempts to end the current situation. Although on the Palestinian side there may be some extremists who do not want peace, on the Israeli side it is actually the Prime Minister himself who clearly does not want peace.

As the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, continues to deteriorate, with increasing danger to the lives of the Palestinian people and to the stability of the entire region, it is incumbent upon the international community and the Security Council in particular to bear their responsibilities. Urgent action must be undertaken by the Security Council to bring the situation under control and bring an immediate end to the dramatic escalation of Israel's political and military attacks against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority.

In follow-up to my previous 82 letters to you regarding this grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, dated from 29 September 2000 to 27 November 2001 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025; A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284; A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352; A/ES-10/76-S/2001/372; A/ES-10/79-S/2001/418; A/ES-10/80-S/2001/432; A/ES-10/81-S/2001/447; A/ES-10/82-S/2001/463; A/ES-10/83-S/2001/471; A/ES-10/84-S/2001/479; A/ES-10/85-S/2001/486; A/ES-10/86-S/2001/496; A/ES-10/87-S/2001/504; A/ES-10/88-S/2001/508; A/ES-10/89-S/2001/544; A/ES-10/90-S/2001/586; A/ES-10/91-S/2001/605; A/ES-10/92-S/2001/629; A/ES-10/93-S/2001/657; A/ES-10/94-S/2001/669; A/ES-10/95-S/2001/686; A/ES-10/96-S/2001/697; A/ES-10/97-S/2001/708; A/ES-10/98-S/2001/717; A/ES-10/99-S/2001/742; A/ES-10/100-S/2001/754; A/ES-10/101-S/2001/783; A/ES-10/102-S/2001/785; A/ES-10/103-S/2001/798; A/ES-10/104-S/2001/812; A/ES-10/105-S/2001/814; A/ES-10/107-S/2001/821; A/ES-10/108-S/2001/826; A/ES-10/111-S/2001/880; A/ES-10/112-S/2001/918; A/ES-10/114-S/2001/928; A/ES-10/115-S/2001/932; A/ES-10/116-S/2001/941; A/ES-10/117-S/2001/971; A/ES-10/118-S/2001/989; A/ES-10/119-S/2001/991; A/ES-10/121-S/2001/1007; A/ES-10/122-S/2001/1024; A/ES-10/123-S/2001/1036; A/ES-10/124-S/2001/1084; A/ES-10/125-S/2001/1092; and A/ES-10/126-S/2001/1118), I regret to inform you that since my last letter to you on 27 November 2001, 12 more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces (the names of the martyrs are contained in the annex to the present letter),

bringing the total number of Palestinians killed since 28 September 2000 to 789 martyrs.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador, Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 4 December 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Thursday, 29 November 2001 through Tuesday, 4 December 2001)

Thursday, 29 November 2001

1. Saeed Rashad Abdel Rahman Mihana
2. Ramy Mohammed Mansour

Sunday, 2 December 2001

1. Ramy Asous (12 years old)
2. Ahmed Abu Shahla (10 years old)

Monday, 3 December 2001

1. Raafat Bajali
2. Yehia Mohamed Abu 'Abid
3. Mohammed Subhi Sunjaq

Tuesday, 4 December 2001

1. Nidal Al Derabani (died from wounds sustained on 3 December 2001)
2. Amjad Al Toubasi
3. Mohammed Ahmed Siyam
4. Mohammed Abu Marsa (15 years old)
5. Mohammed Abu Taqiah

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 789.